

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A server system comprising:
a plurality of host processor cards for providing management LAN communications separated from payload LAN communications;
a first card coupled to the plurality of host processor cards and coupled to a payload LAN, the plurality of host processor cards configured to provide payload LAN communications through the first card; and
a second card coupled to the plurality of host processor cards and coupled to a management LAN, the plurality of host processor cards configured to provide management LAN communications with the management LAN through the second card.
2. The server system of claim 1, wherein the first card is a LAN switch card.
3. The server system of claim 2, wherein the first card is a Procurve Ethernet LAN switch card.
4. The server system of claim 1, wherein the second card is a server management card.
5. The server system of claim 4, wherein the server management card is configured to monitor operation of the server system.
6. The server system of claim 5, wherein the server management card includes a management processor and a LAN switch, the LAN switch coupled to management connections of the host processor cards, and management connections of the management processor.

7. The server system of claim 4, and further comprising a backplane for connecting the plurality of host processor cards to the first card and the server management card.
8. The server system of claim 7, wherein the plurality of host processor cards are configured to communicate status information to the server management card via at least one I²C bus routed through the backplane.
9. The server system of claim 1, and further comprising:
 - a third card coupled to the plurality of host processor cards and coupled to a software event manager, the host processor cards configured to transmit software events through the third card to the software event manager.
10. The server system of claim 9, wherein the third card is a LAN switch card.
11. The server system of claim 9, wherein the plurality of host processor cards are configured to transmit hardware events to the second card.
12. A method of providing physically separate management LAN communications and payload LAN communications for a server system, the method comprising:
 - providing a plurality of host processor cards for providing management LAN communications and payload LAN communications;
 - routing management LAN communications from the plurality of host processor cards through a server management card;
 - routing management LAN communications from the server management card to a management LAN;
 - routing payload LAN communications from the plurality of host processor cards through a first LAN switch; and
 - routing payload LAN communications from the first LAN switch to a payload LAN.

13. The method of claim 12, wherein the server management card is configured to monitor operation of the server system.

14. The method of claim 12, wherein the server management card includes a management processor and a LAN switch, the method further comprising:

routing management communications from the plurality of host processor cards and the management processor through the LAN switch of the server management card to the management LAN.

15. The method of claim 12, and further comprising:

transmitting status information from the plurality of host processor cards to the server management card via at least one I²C bus routed through a backplane of the server system.

16. The method of claim 12, and further comprising:

transmitting software events from the plurality of host processor cards through a second LAN switch to a software event manager.

17. The method of claim 12, and further comprising:

transmitting hardware events from the plurality of host processor cards through the server management card to a hardware event manager.

18. A server system comprising:

a backplane;

a plurality of host processor cards coupled to the backplane;

a LAN switch card coupled to the plurality of host processor cards through the backplane and coupled to a payload LAN, the plurality of host processor cards configured to provide payload LAN communications through the LAN switch card; and

a server management card coupled to the plurality of host processor cards through the backplane and coupled to a management LAN, the plurality of host processor cards configured to provide management LAN communications with the management LAN through the server management card.

19. The server system of claim 18, and further comprising:

a second LAN switch card coupled to the plurality of host processor cards through the backplane and coupled to a software event manager, the host processor cards configured to transmit software events through the second LAN switch card to the software event manager.

20. The server system of claim 18, wherein the plurality of host processor cards are configured to transmit hardware events to the server management card.